

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services
233 North Michigan Ave., Suite 600
Chicago, Illinois 60601



Financial Management Group

January 18, 2022

Jami Snyder, Director
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
801 East Jefferson Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034

RE: TN AZ-21-0016

Dear Director Snyder:

We have reviewed the proposed Arizona (AZ) State Plan Amendment (SPA) to Attachment 4.19-B AZ-21-0016, which was submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on November 10, 2021. This plan amendment updates the methods and standards for reimbursing Emergency Medical Transportation (EMT).

Based upon the information provided by the State, we have approved the amendment with an effective date of October 1, 2021. We are enclosing the approved CMS-179 and a copy of the new state plan pages.

If you have any additional questions or need further assistance, please contact Blake Holt at 303-844-6218 or blake.holt@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Todd McMillion

Todd McMillion
Director
Division of Reimbursement Review

Enclosures

TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF STATE PLAN MATERIAL FOR: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services		1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER: 21-016	2. STATE Arizona
		3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (MEDICAID)	
TO: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE October 1, 2021	
5. TYPE OF PLAN MATERIAL (<i>Check One</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> NEW STATE PLAN <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED AS NEW PLAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT COMPLETE BLOCKS 6 THRU 10 IF THIS IS AN AMENDMENT (<i>Separate Transmittal for each amendment</i>)			
6. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION: 42 CFR Part 447		7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT: FFY 2022: \$2,739,897 FFY 2023: \$2,628,334	
8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT: Attachment 4.19-B Page 5h-5i		9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (<i>If Applicable</i>): Attachment 4.19-B Page 5h-5i	
10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT: Updates the State Plan EMT rates, effective October 1, 2021			
11. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (<i>Check One</i>): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER, AS SPECIFIED: <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL			
12. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL: 		16. RETURN TO: Dana Flannery 801 E, Jefferson, MD#4200 Phoenix, AZ 85034	
13. TYPED NAME: Dana Flannery			
14. TITLE: Assistant Director			
15. DATE SUBMITTED: November 10, 2021			
FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY			
17. DATE RECEIVED: November 10, 2021		18. DATE APPROVED: January 18, 2021	
PLAN APPROVED – ONE COPY ATTACHED			
19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL: October 1, 2021		20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL: 	
21. TYPED NAME: Todd McMillion		22. TITLE: Director, Division of Reimbursement Review	
23. REMARKS:			

METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES
OTHER TYPES OF CARE

The following is a description of methods and standards for determining the payment rates for ambulance transportation services included in the transportation bullet listed in Attachment 4.19-B, page 5b. Except as otherwise noted below, AHCCCS uses a uniform methodology in reimbursing both governmental and private providers for ambulance emergency and non-emergency transportation services.

1) Ground Ambulance Rates set by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)

ADHS regulates ambulance companies in Arizona (except for those owned and operated by American Indian tribes and federal agencies) licensing and rate setting. ADHS sets rates based on data submitted by providers including direct and indirect costs, reimbursable and non reimbursable charges, utilization data, and public payer settlements. ADHS offers annual provider rate adjustments based upon the Arizona Ambulance Inflation factor (AIF). The AIF is comprised of the average annual change in the CPI-U for transportation (50%) and for medical care (50%). The transportation category is composed of such things as motor vehicles (new and used), motor fuel, parts and equipment, maintenance and repair and public transportation. The medical care category is composed of such things as medical care commodities, medical care services – professional, hospital and related services.

For dates of service prior to October 1, 2009, AHCCCS will reimburse ambulance companies at 80.0% of the ADHS established rate. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2009 through March 31, 2011, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 76% of the ADHS established rate. For dates of service beginning April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 72.2% of the ADHS established rate. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.6% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of July 7, 2011. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.6% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of August 2, 2012 and are posted at: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>

For dates of service beginning October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.6% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of August 2, 2013 and are posted at <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 74.74% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of August 2, 2014 and are posted at <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.59% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of August 2, 2015 and are posted at www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.59 % of the ADHS established rate in effect as of July 1, 2016 and are posted at <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.59 % of the ADHS established rate in effect as of July 1, 2017 and are posted at <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.59 % of the ADHS established rate in effect as of July 1, 2017 and are posted at <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.59% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of July 1, 2019 and are posted at: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.59% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of July 1, 2020 and are posted at: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>.

For dates of service beginning October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, AHCCCS will reimburse providers at 68.59% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of July 1, 2021, and posted at <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>

2) Ground Ambulance Rates set by AHCCCS

a) AHCCCS establishes ground ambulance rates for out-of-state companies, companies operated by American Indian tribes except those described in paragraph b or which have a CON and are reimbursed according to reimbursement methodology 1), and federal agencies such as the National Park Service that operates ambulances in Grand Canyon National Park and Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Rates were initially established in 1994 based on the average (mean) reimbursement rates paid by commercial insurance companies. Ground Ambulance Fee Schedule Rates are posted on the AHCCCS website at <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>, effective October 1, 2021

b) Effective October 1, 2018, rates for ground ambulance services provided by an I.H.S. provider or a tribally owned or operated provider with a section 638 agreement that does not have a Certificate of Necessity (CON) issued by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), will be the higher of: (1) the weighted average of the provider-specific rates as set by ADHS that are in effect on July 1, 2018, for each provider that has been issued a CON weighted by utilization of each ground transportation service code derived from both paid claims and encounters for the 12 months ending September 30, 2017;

METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES
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and (2) the weighted average of the provider-specific rates as set by ADHS that are in effect on July 1, 2018, for each provider that has been issued a CON weighted by utilization of each ground transportation service code derived from only paid claims for the 12 months ending September 30, 2017. The higher of the two methodologies will then be multiplied by 68.59% to establish the AHCCCS rate for each ambulance service. Beginning October 1, 2021, if the methodology produces a rate for the Basic Life Support (BLS) that is equal to or exceeds the Advanced Life Support (ALS) rate, the ALS rate shall be set at 107.5% of the calculated BLS rate. This is applicable to Basic Life Support Codes A0428 & A0429 and Advanced Life Support Codes A0426, A0427, A0433, and A0434. Ground ambulance services provided by an I.H.S. provider or a tribally owned or operated provider with a section 638 agreement that have a Certificate of Necessity (CON) issued by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) will be reimbursed according to reimbursement methodology 1). These rates will be adjusted with an effective date of October 1 of each subsequent year using the provider-specific rates in effect on July 1 as set by ADHS for each ground ambulance provider that has been issued a CON and utilization data for paid claims and encounters for the 12 months ending September 30th of the previous year.

The methodology described in paragraph 2(b) is the following:

- AHCCCS FFS rate = the greater of (Methodology 1 weighted average rate * 0.6859) or (Methodology 2 weighted average rate * 0.6859).
- Methodology 1 weighted average rate = $(C + D) / (A + B)$
- Methodology 2 weighted average rate = C / A

Where:

A = FFY 2017 total units billed for the service on FFS claims

B = FFY 2017 total units billed for the service on MCO encounters

C = FFY 2017 total reimbursements for the service on FFS claims

D = FFY 2017 total reimbursements for the service on MCO encounters

After the above methodology is calculated if BLS is = to/or greater than ALS, then BLS Rate * 1.075 = ALS Rate

3) Air Ambulance Rates

AHCCCS establishes reimbursement rates for air ambulance services. For claims with dates of service on or before December 31, 2015, the reimbursement rates are based on a cost study of Air Ambulance Costs conducted in 2000 to establish the initial rates for specialty and non-specialty transports, and are adjusted periodically based on the Consumer Price Index for Other Medical Professionals, the CPI for Transportation, and the Federal Aviation Administration forecast of jet fuel prices. For claims with dates of service from January 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, the reimbursement rates are based on a study of non- specialty transport and mileage ambulance rates in other western states, setting the AHCCCS rates for non-specialty transports and mileage only equal to the average rate among the states studied. However, rates for specialty transports remain unchanged from those in effect on December 31, 2015. Reimbursement rates for air ambulance services were increased by 8.1% for dates of service after October 1, 2019. For dates of service after October 1, 2021, air ambulance rates can be found at <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>